

# THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 89, Issue 36 January 10, 2000  
*Taking care of our own since 1911*



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—Story pg. 6—

## NEWS –

*McGill College International: A recipe for privatization? - pg. 3*

## CULTURE–

*Getting phunky with Phish in Phlorida – pg. 13*



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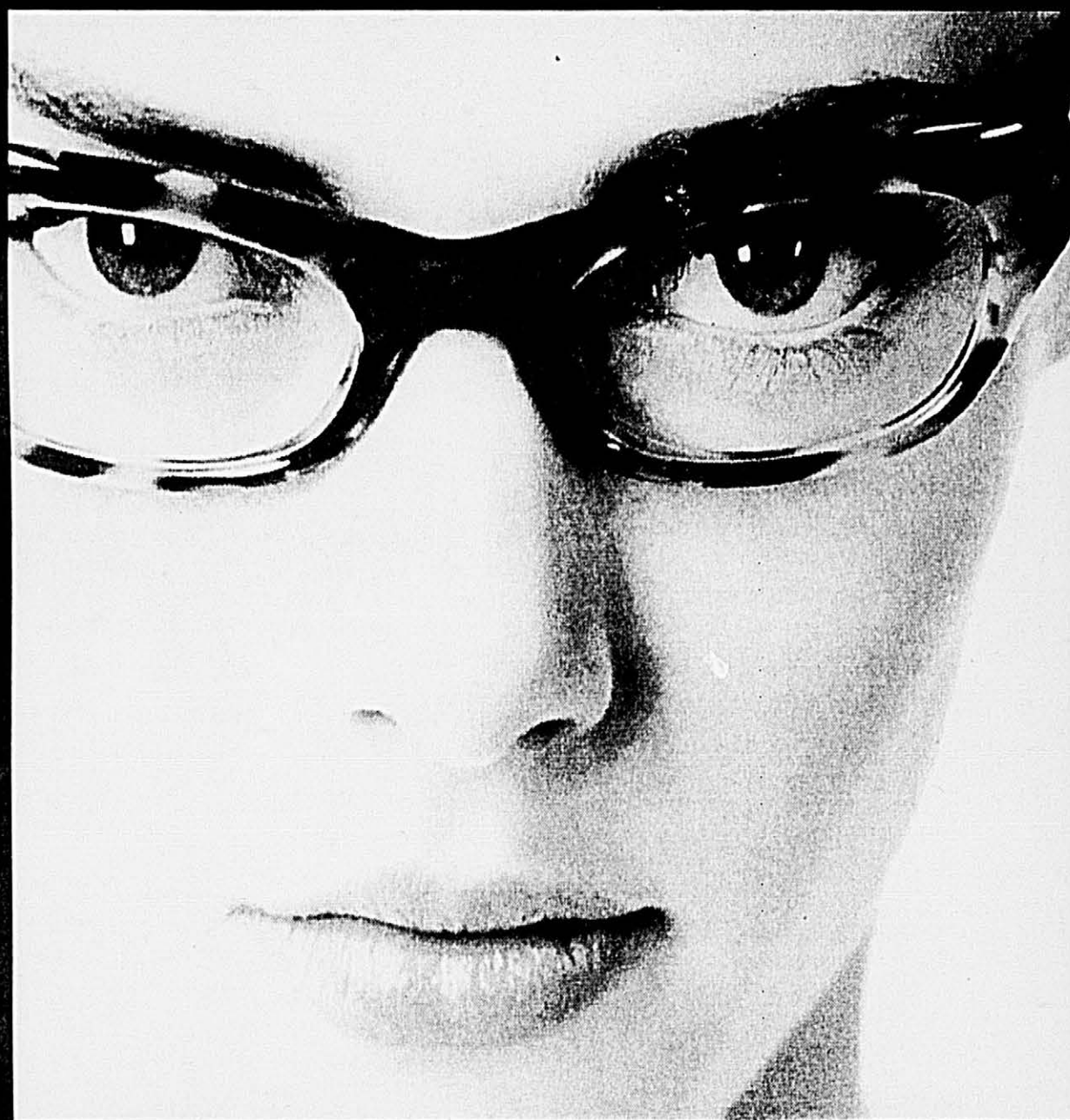


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# Plan for Private College at McGill Voted Down

*Critics call proposal a blueprint for two-tier education*

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

If some senior administrators have their way, a private liberal arts college called McGill College International (MCI) will open its doors on campus sometime soon.

The college, slated to offer an American-style liberal arts program to approximately 3,000 students, would charge upwards of \$28,000 a year in tuition, and would focus on small classes and extensive internship opportunities.

Many students and faculty, however, are alarmed at the thought of a private post-secondary institution in Canada. They argue that the move would lead to a two-tier education system in which students with rich parents would receive a far better education than others.

"By creating this elite college, a private institutional body within a public institutional body, and charging \$28,000, the first concern that comes to my mind is that it will necessarily create two different classes of students," said François Tanguay-Renaud, VP External for the McGill Law Students' Association.

He suggested that the MCI was part of Chancellor Bernard Shapiro's long-term goal of privatizing McGill, an agenda that he says was made clear in a discussion paper presented by administration last October that called for more private funding and tuition hikes.

"The document *Tradition and Innovation* was introduced by the administration, and it seems to me that all the deans were involved, and it seems like it's the same kind of people involved [with the MCI]," Tanguay-Renaud said. "McGill is seeking alternatives of funding and it seems to want to lean towards privatization."

Last month, an ad hoc committee of faculty deans and professors handed over a proposal for the college to councils in the arts and science faculties seeking support for further research into developing the



SUS President Andrew Kovacs

new school. Students and professors on the Science Faculty Council rejected the proposal just before the holidays. The proposal will be debated by the Arts Faculty Council at a meeting tomorrow.

was key was that the dean, after we had defeated the motion, reiterated that we were not rejecting innovative degree programs. What we were rejecting was the idea of a private college at McGill."

Kovacs cited a series of studies done in the United States that inspired the MCI plan. The studies found that the demand for a liberal-arts-college brand of education was far greater than the number of spaces available to students.

"Apparently there are hundreds of students who are willing to pay these tuition fees to get a liberal arts education," he said.

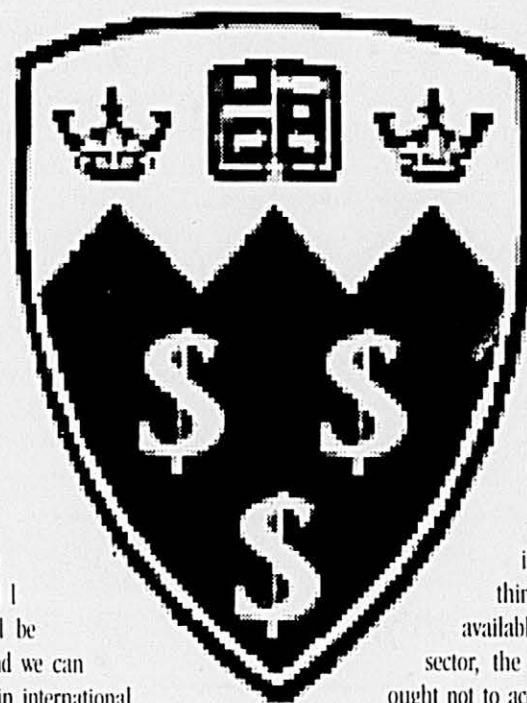
But he doubted how well McGill could accommodate MCI students. "How will [the MCI] fit into McGill?" he asked. "Will it be a separate entity? The residences are already filled. How are we going to fit 3,000 more students? How are you going to guarantee these internships?"

But despite his doubts, Kovacs voted in favour of the committee because he feels that there has not been enough dialogue on the issue of privatization. "My personal position is that the Faculty of Science hasn't taken a clear position on the issue of privatization. I would have liked to see the

“ McGill is seeking alternatives of funding and it seems to want to lean towards privatization. ”

"There was a lot of controversy and there was very heated debate," said Andrew Kovacs, president of the Science Undergraduate Society. "One thing that

issue examined a little bit. In all likelihood, it would have been concluded that privatization at McGill is wrong; privatization is not supported. But the concept of the



liberal arts college at McGill might still be feasible and we can still draw in international students and the money."

Dr. Carman Miller, dean of arts, is one of the administrators who sits on the MCI committee. He feels that there are many positive aspects of the proposed MCI curriculum, but he's also concerned with the idea of privatization, and worries that high tuition would construct insurmountable barriers to students.

"It would offer much more focus, more of a liberal arts program, with a very very favourable student-staff ratio and with tutoring support, the kind of things that are not available at publically funded institutions. But people who go in to that program would be asked to pay a steep tuition," he said.

"It's an interesting intellectual project, but personally I would like it to be available in a publically funded institution," said Miller.

"Because it's interesting, I think it should be available to the public sector, the public sector ought not to accept second or third-rate education because they're public. I think that public sector education should be first class."

Although Miller concedes that financial aid programs could be set up to help deserving students attend the college, he was not convinced that a private MCI would not represent a two-tier education system. "I have a real concern about access," he said. "I believe that everyone who is capable of university education and who wants to, should be able to receive a university education without financial restrictions," he said. "I realize that there are a number of financial models that might provide for that, I accept all of that. But I would have to be absolutely certain that this is not a kind of education that creates insurmountable barriers to people."

## QUICK QUIZ:

"Quark" is:

- |                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) a variety of fresh cheese | (c) a page layout program |
| (b) a subatomic particle      | (d) none of the above     |

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# Classroom of the Future here at McGill

*Distance learning, web lectures possible but application still limited*

BY BEN ERRETT

Last Friday, Metallurgical Engineering Professor Ralph Harris conducted a lecture in his extractive metallurgical engineering class. Nothing out of the ordinary for Harris, but his classroom stretched all the way to Utah, and a lecture video, complete with notes and assignments, was on the web later that afternoon.

Harris was using a prototype of the "intelligent classroom," a room specially equipped to allow the teacher to spend more time and effort on teaching than technology.

"It's a room that reacts to user activity to effectively control multimedia presentation equipment for the instructor," said Jeremy Cooperstock, professor of electrical engineering at McGill and the developer of the technology.

address the frustration that professors have with complicated equipment. Cooperstock says that he has been in classrooms before that have been so complicated that he couldn't give his lecture.

"I walked in [to McConnell 13] and the lights went out. I tried to use the touch key control panel to turn them back on, and it wouldn't work. I spent 15 minutes playing with the buttons and trying different things. As an engineer, I even power-cycled by plugging and unplugging [the panel]. Finally I brought in a technician, and he couldn't fix it either."

Cooperstock cites the example as inspiration for his project.

"I said to myself that there has to be a better way. A room in which someone can walk in and press one button, a button and not a computer touch screen. They press that button, a screen lowers, and they are



Celine Heinecker

Engineering professor Jeremy Cooperstock, creator of the intelligent classroom

Professor Robert Lecker currently teaches in the Frank Dawson Adams Auditorium, and says he has given up trying to integrate multimedia in his lectures.

"The sound quality is bad, the controls are obscure, and the overhead projector will not descend. I can't even see the students when I'm standing at the podium," Lecker said.

"There are rarely instructions on how to use anything. If I went in with my laptop, I wouldn't know where to start."

But while the intelligent classroom may someday be the solution to problems such as these, Vice Principal Information Systems and Technology Bruce Pennycook sees Cooperstock's dream as a long way off.

"It's a research project...it's not a shrinkwrapped product," Pennycook said.

The solution to problems like Lecker's, he explained, will be providing the support staff for the technology that currently exists.

"We are putting telephones in all the rooms with this technology, hardwired to a help desk, so professors can instantly access trained personnel."

"The question is, how do we offer support? First, we have people who know how to support it. Second, we put phones with the gear. Finally, we offer individual train-

ing for anyone who wants it."

While this might solve immediate questions, Lecker has seen deeper funding problems as underlying impediments to using more classroom technology.

"I needed \$1,000 to hire a researcher to compile all the multimedia I was using. It was a very time-consuming project, requiring assembling slides, art and music. The department denied the request."

The technology may exist, Lecker notes, but it is useless unless staff are provided with the means to use it.

## WONDERFUL WHEN IT WORKS

As for Professor Harris' experience with the intelligent classroom, he said, "when it works smoothly, it's brilliant."

"I gave a class on Wednesday, but [the notes] did not capture, so we didn't get a recording....I've had a lot of issues getting it to work smoothly, but it did today, for the first time."

Harris says that the intelligent classroom is certainly positive for McGill, but that it will never replace solid teaching.

"I put a huge amount of energy into preparing good lectures for my McGill people who are sitting in front of me; at the

## Vandalism a Problem

In light of the recurring problems with building security, especially in the McConnell Engineering building, is it feasible to have high-powered technology in these classrooms?

"That's a good question," says Vice Principal (Information Systems and Technology) Bruce Pennycook.

"We haven't lost any of the digital projectors yet, but that's because they're bolted to the ceiling. We also secure those with a type of technology that I'd rather not describe."

Intelligent classroom designer Jeremy Cooperstock is hesitant to name the price of his technology for precisely this reason.

"Given McGill's security record, we're nervous. I get nervous when anyone from a magazine or television show asks me how much it costs because they publish that and it's attractive to thieves."

Pennycook believes that the use of laptops by professors is one way to reduce problems with theft.

"We're not too keen on leaving computers in small out of the way classrooms...We're promoting laptop use: Bring your laptop, it's all configured, plug it in and it does what you need." -Ben Errett

same time, they get all this other stuff as well. This is a major addition to the quality of McGill teaching, and it will improve the learning that is happening here because students are really excited about this. What human being wouldn't be students from

“When it works smoothly, it's brilliant.”

"We used a document camera, a digital tablet, and an electronic whiteboard in which the instructor's writing is tracked by laser. This 'digital ink' is captured electronically and can be reproduced by computer," Cooperstock explained.

The aim of the technology, he says, is to

automatically hooked up to the computer in that room."

## AN EXISTING NEED

Cooperstock is not alone in his frustration with current classroom technology. English

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The deadline for submitting applications is January 31, 2000.

## Student Services Building Finally Opens its Doors

BY JODI LATHAM

Student services got a brand new home last week as the \$10.5 million William and Mary Brown Student Services Building finally opened for business. The new centre, located next to the Shatner Building at 3600 McTavish, features new offices for SSMU, counseling services, Career and Placement Services, Student Aid, and the International Students' Network's Coca-Cola Lounge.

Dean of Students Rosalie Jukier played a big part in planning for the building and was an enthusiastic supporter of the move. She described the new centre as "a wonderful, bright, functional central location that spells service with a capital S."

"The move to McTavish puts student services into the heart of the campus, making them more accessible and visible

to students," she said.

Jukier also explained the reason for the move - an old student services building that wasn't meeting students' needs.

"The Powell building had become inappropriate for a variety of reasons," she said. "It was too small to accommodate all our growing services and the state of the building was not appropriate either."

Students were also pleased about the more centralized location of services, especially in the wake of winter. The new building features entrances off both Dr. Penfield and McTavish streets and is also accessible through the Shatner Building.

"In general I think it is worth having a new building," said Iwo Losasiewicz, a U1 Arts student visiting the new building on Friday. "[The Powell Building] was pretty crowded and out of the way, so it was inconvenient for many students. Now the

services are closer to campus."

Architectural critics were less positive about the new building, with many questioning its appearance next to the circa 1960s Shatner Building. "I think it is very ugly," said exchange student Soahe Lee. "McGill is known for its old buildings. It is way too modern and new."

But Jukier disagreed. She called the Brown Building an "architectural improvement to the campus."

The Brown Building was finished late last year, after a series of delays including a fire over the summer. Funding for the building came primarily from outside donors and alumnae like William and Mary Brown, for whom the centre was named. John MacBain, SSMU president in 1979-1980, donated \$1.2 million to the centre. Student fee levies also contributed to building the centre.



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MERELY MUSING



ZACHSKY

# Shakespearean Striptease

After three weeks of brain and nerve-racking exams, the holidays were a good time to catch up on my backlog of visual entertainment. I finally got to see a number of films I missed the first time around, including last year's best picture Oscar-winner *Shakespeare in Love*. I was mostly disappointed. Here's why:

In film theory, films comprise two interlinked realms. The first, called the diegesis, constitutes all the events and elements that occur in the world of the film itself (the "narrative"), as well as any events that are implied by the narrative. When two characters talk about a past event that a film doesn't actually show us, we say that the event falls outside the narrative, but is still part of the diegesis, because we assume the event to have happened in the realm of the film.

All the non-inferred, explicit meaning that a film conveys – that is, from the narrative and from outside the diegesis entirely – constitutes the plot. The plot therefore includes such non-diegetic elements as titles (recall *Annie Hall* or the more recent *Election*), soundtrack, editing, and camera work.

The key to analyzing meaning in a film is to establish its source. A well-balanced work will convey meaning through a rich, multilayered combination of narrative, other diegetic, and non-diegetic elements. In Alfred Hitchcock's *Frenzy*, a backwards tracking shot that extends from an apartment door, down the steps of the building, and up to the roof of a building across the street reinforces the inferred event that transpires in the apartment: a woman is raped and killed. The narrative

never conveys the murder explicitly. Instead, the audience induces the event from the dialogue, which is then reinforced by the non-diegetic camera work.

Sometimes meaning is precipitated by the interplay of two realms. In a scene from German director Werner Fassbinder's film *The Marriage of Maria Braun*, wealthy businessman Karl Oswald plays a tune on his piano that is taken up by the soundtrack. The shift of the tune from the narrative to the soundtrack, a realm that exists over and above the narrative, reinforces our sense of Oswald's power and control.

The problem with too many modern films is that the stylistic and formal elements – the elements outside the diegesis, that is – have displaced any meaningful content. In *Shakespeare in Love*, one would think that Tom Stoppard's Oscar-winning screenplay could carry its own weight, if not an entire film, but no: not two minutes transpire without the return of the epic soundtrack to move the narrative along, thwarting all attempts to foster intimacy and drama. Another modern tendency, epitomized in the extreme by Oliver Stone's new film *Any Given Sunday*, has directors in epilepsy-inducing montages of rapid cuts.

The shift to an emphasis on non-diegetic elements in film has not been a sudden one, but a historical trend that has its roots in the technology of film itself. When the first "talkies" came out in the late 1920s, cameras still made so much noise that they had to be enclosed in booths in order to not be heard on the soundtrack. This severely restricted the camera's mobility. (And consequently the talkies faced widespread early opposition from, among others, Charlie Chaplin.) Acting continued in the expressionist "stage" acting tradition: hammy, broad gestures and overenunciation, while the camera rarely cut between shots.

As cameras became more mobile and less noisy, and improved film stocks required less light, directors gained control over the visual form of the film, while acting became more natural and subtle. Films demanded less and less that their audience listen and think about what they saw, allowing them instead to sit back and have their senses stimulated by stunning camera work and dramatic sound. The film can now offer a world so similar to our own in its colour, naturalism (compared to the old classics), and visual style that we don't have to cognate – we can simply perceive. But the death of cognition is also the death of meaning, because mere perception disqualifies the

film as art.

More evidence: During some free time, I decided to watch the only movie we have in residence that I hadn't yet seen, *Striptease*. It's worth at least a few minutes of my time, I figured.

I was wrong. I didn't last more than 30 seconds.

By the end of the movie's first minute the entire problem, plot, and denouement were revealed: Demi Moore's character has lost her job on account of her irresponsible ex-high-school-quarterback husband. In divorce court, the judge makes it clear: no job, no kid. The title of the film means the rest is obvious.

An astute colleague observed that the movie wasn't supposed to be about the plot, but about the striptease. Fine. And by the same logic, *Any Given Sunday* is about the football game. *Rocky*? The boxing match. *Streetfighter*? The video game.

What these films – and many more – represent is the transplantation of other forms of entertainment into movies. Now, there's nothing wrong with a life story, or a David Mamet play, or even a Stephen King novel making the leap to the screen. The problem comes when the play or novel or striptease is transplanted and not translated into film.

The difference? A good translation employs the idioms and nuances of the object language, while a transplantation lazily foregoes these and assumes that what works in one medium will work in another. But therein is the catch: a book is a book – and a video game a video game – for a reason. A novel offers vivid descriptions and insights into its characters' minds that, without skilled translation, a film cannot. I know I'm in the minority, but I often think about how confusing and dull the soundless last 45 minutes of *2001: A Space Odyssey* must have been to those who hadn't read the book first.

The result of the lack of skillful translation into film mirrors the first trend I discussed, namely that form supplants content, and spectacle supersedes art.

Too many directors and producers neglect the essence of the movie: a story with multiple layers of textual, formal, and stylistic meaning. If a movie is only about a striptease or a soundtrack or fancy camera work, then it's not a movie at all. These elements can be present in a film, but they must complement well written screenplays and well developed diegeses. Until they do, we're better off spending our money at the arcade, or even better, at Super Sex.



**20** Years Ago: On January 10, 1980, The Daily reported that Ontario university tuition fees would rise by at least 7.5 percent, and as much as 17.5 percent. Universities would have the option of charging an additional \$70 on top of the government's minimum \$55 increase. The minister of education announced a 4 per cent increase in student aid, which amounted to \$3.3-million. Ann Brocklehurst, currently the editor-in-chief of enRoute magazine, reported that out-of-town students faced difficulties securing their right to vote in the February election.

**40** Years Ago: On January 13, 1960, The Daily reported that McGill's Student's Executive Council agreed in principle

to a Charter of the Student Press, which outlined the freedoms and responsibilities of student newspapers. However, the SEC rejected a motion to guarantee The Daily editorial freedom. The National Federation of Canadian University Students announced new scholarships for Algerian students designed to lure them away from countries behind the Iron Curtain. The Daily reported that Algerian students could not study in their own country and were seriously hindered in France, and thus many were wooed to communist countries.

**60** Years Ago: On January 12, 1940, the governor-general of Canada, Lord Tweedsmuir, oversaw the traditional installation ceremony of Dr. F. Cyril James as McGill's tenth principal. The Daily reported that Russian troops retreated in force after near success at cutting Finland in half in an invasion attempt. It was predicted that the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway project would be finalized in March.

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# Admissions Suit Back in Court

*Former Administrator charges wrongful dismissal, asks to recuse judge with Liberal Party ties*

BY JON BRICKER

**S**takes rose this week in a wrongful dismissal suit that has embroiled big Canadian politicians and McGill administrators.

At a Quebec Court of Appeals hearing Wednesday, former Director of Admissions Peggy Sheppard reiterated demands that the court look at her evidence, which she says, clearly show administrators used backdoor tactics in admitting some students. And when her department wouldn't go along with admitting the sons and daughters of wealthy and high-profile Canadians, she says, the university decided to get rid of her.

wrongful dismissal cases that are usually very trying on plaintiffs. About twenty supporters showed up to Wednesday's hearing.

"People fail to see the impact wrongful dismissal has on a person financially and emotionally," said Karen Jacinto. "The system is designed to weigh you down."

Jacinto, who is waiting for her own wrongful dismissal case to be heard, met Sheppard a year ago and has followed her case closely ever since. Jacinto was let go by pharmaceutical giant Sulzer Canada just a month before she was to have surgery to remove a tumour she had discovered on

her ultimate dismissal, not a campaign to drag McGill's name through the mud.

"I wasn't a whistle-blower," she said, noting that she remains proud of her own McGill degrees and her time as a McGill employee. She turned down opportunities to name Kaplan and other high-profile Canadians involved until Dubois forced her to as part of her request for refusal.

Sheppard was fired in 1994 and now claims that the university failed to live up to its end of a 1986 deal. Sheppard was forced out of the Admissions post that year after the position was made to demand an academic with doctorate level qualifications. She agreed to a deal that included a two-year study leave during which she completed a Masters degree. But when she returned, she says in her claim, she was offered positions that she deemed inappropriate and that didn't honour McGill's commitment to keep her on.

And since 1996, her case has been an uphill climb. She's been unable to afford a lawyer, and has represented herself against an administration led by high-priced Montreal law firm McCarthy-Tetrault.

"It's been devastating from me," said Sheppard. "I just can't afford legal help."

And that makes Jacinto wonder if McGill is using its clout fairly. "Why doesn't McGill just approach her and try to reach some kind of settlement?" she asked.

**"The system is designed to weigh you down."**

The case made even bigger waves early last month when Sheppard named former Solicitor-General for the federal Liberal government, Robert Kaplan, whose son was admitted to McGill, in spite of the fact that, Sheppard said, he did not meet minimum admissions standards. She was forced to name Kaplan after Superior Court Justice Jean-Guy Dubois turned down a request to remove himself from the case because of connections to the federal Liberals. Dubois was a Liberal MP from 1980-1984, while Kaplan held the Solicitor-General post.

"I know how political connections work," Sheppard said in court.

Wednesday's hearing saw the appeal court uphold Sheppard's motion to further her challenge of Dubois' refusal to rescue him from the case. Dubois earlier told her that his presiding over the case did not pose a conflict of interest. Sheppard now has to decide whether to put the issue to the court's Chief Justice or include it in a March 3 hearing that is already slated to look into what evidence Sheppard can present.

"[A] colleague of yours, a prominent one, had used his influence to have somebody admitted to McGill who was not admissible in any way at all," she said in an earlier hearing.

And so far, her plight is earning her a lot of support from a host of backers who call the justice system unfit to handle

her breast.

"People think the justice system does not handle these things fairly," she said, linking her case to the one in progress. "[Sheppard has] faced a lot of obstacles."

"McGill has a lot of Liberal connections," Jacinto said, pointing to McGill's seeming insulation in Sheppard's case. According to one document filed by Sheppard, of Quebec's 145 justices, one, Dubois, is a former Liberal MP but 22 have McGill law degrees.

**"McGill has a lot of Liberal connections."**

But while McGill wouldn't comment on details of the case, University Relations Director Kate Williams defended administration's stake in Sheppard's dismissal. "We are absolutely and totally confident that we will be able to present a case that categorically shows no wrongdoing by McGill," she said.

Kaplan has also denied that he was aware of any effort to have his son admitted despite his failing to meet academic requirements.

But Sheppard has said that pointing fingers and naming names is not what the case is about. The real issues, she said, are the behaviour of a few administrators and

She also says she has a problem with the notion of a publicly-funded institution pouring a lot of money into expensive litigation. "Who's paying their legal fees anyway?" Jacinto asked.

In a letter handed out at a McGill Senate meeting last month, administration refused to respond to a request from Political Science Professor Sam Noumoff for a full report of the legal costs being incurred by McGill in Ms. Sheppard's case.

"We're not commenting on details," Williams said. "But there's been a serious effort in the last few years to reduce our legal expenses."

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First name \_\_\_\_\_

Address (No., street, apartment) \_\_\_\_\_

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Postal code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Area code \_\_\_\_\_

Language of correspondence ☐ French ☐ English

Have you received financial assistance under the Loans and Bursaries Program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If Yes, Complete Sections 2, 5 and 6.  
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**SECTION 2: EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION**

Name of educational institution currently attended \_\_\_\_\_

Code of institution \_\_\_\_\_

Number of university credits \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Number of periods (hours) or courses completed in a college-level technical program \_\_\_\_\_

Which term are you currently enrolled as a full-time student? ☐ Summer ☐ Fall ☐ Winter

Attach a copy of your cumulative report or transcript.

**SECTION 3: CITIZENSHIP**

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Canadian citizen by birth ☐ Copy of birth certificate on which the last and first names of both your father and mother must appear.

Naturalized Canadian citizen ☐ Certified copies of both sides of your Canadian citizenship certificate and copy of your birth certificate, with the last and first names of both your father and mother must appear.

Permanent resident ☐ Certified copy of your Immigration, Citizenship and Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IMM-1000) and copy of your landing certificate on which the last and first names of both your father and mother must appear.

**SECTION 4: ADDRESS OF PARENTS**

☐ OF FATHER ☐ OF MOTHER

Address (No. street, apartment) \_\_\_\_\_

Address (city) \_\_\_\_\_

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Prov. \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Postal code \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_ Area code \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 5: STUDENT COOPERATIVE OR ORGANIZATION RECOGNIZED BY THE MINISTER**

Name and address of recognized cooperative or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Code of cooperative or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone number \_\_\_\_\_

a) Description of microcomputer: \_\_\_\_\_ PRICE \$ \_\_\_\_\_

b) Description of peripherals and software: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Taxes: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of representative of recognized cooperative or organization \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION 6: STUDENT'S SWORN DECLARATION AND AGREEMENT**

By signing this form, I certify that the information I have given is accurate and complete. I understand that it is an offence to make a false statement in accordance with the Loan Guaranty Program for the Purchase of a Microcomputer. I agree to pay the interest on the principal to my financial institution every three months.

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# The Seattle Diaries

NOVEMBER 26, 1999 8:14 AM PST  
EN ROUTE

*A firsthand account of a McGill student protester  
at last December's WTO demonstrations*

BY PAULINE HWANG

Lassie galloping across the screen in slow motion... some energetic jazz in my headphones... Canada spread out beneath the window. Despite the mysterious difference between the airline's "scrambled eggs" and "plain omelette," plus my utter lack of sleep, I'm wired. Who wouldn't be? Heading to Seattle for what has been dubbed the protest of the century – resisting the World Trade Organization (WTO)'s opening of Millennium Round trade negotiations?

Despite an absence of mainstream coverage in the months leading up to the Seattle protests, the WTO debate reached enormous numbers through internet mobilization, regional teach-ins, alternative press, and word of mouth. Key questions: Should the central rule of the WTO – unfettered trade above all – continue to win over national regulations? Must we continue upholding the "lowest common denominator" in international social and environmental standards? Or are there more just and sustainable alternatives?

Caravans, busloads, trainloads, and flightloads of concerned citizens are landing from across North America and abroad. From intellectuals to grassroots, liberals to radicals, environmental to student to indigenous to labour to human rights activists – all clues suggest that Seattle is the place to be this week.

What will be the result, I wonder? Will the citizens remain ignored, as trade ministers scuttle past security into their closed door meetings? Will we all go home disappointed? Or is it really possible to "Turn Around" the Millennium Round? Let's wait and see....

4:00 PM

A CITY OF SUSPENSE

I embark on Seattle and stop at a phone booth in the Travelodge. On the table beside the phone is a pile of "The Citizens' Guide to the WTO" and some

information sheets on microeconomics. This must be one of the countless places booked by Seattle activists for the visiting protesters. Eyeing some of my fellow bus riders, I wonder if they're here for the same reason as myself. They have an adventurous, hopeful air about them... I'm in the same boat as all these strangers.

7:00 PM

EAGER TO LEARN TOGETHER

As I head to the "Economic Globalization and the WTO Teach-In" at Benaroya Hall, strangers on the street become allies as we discover our common destination. I chat with random people in line for our tickets – young and old, all shapes and colours, coming from California to PEI to Australia. Looking around, I feel somehow bad for all the peo-

ple who didn't reserve seats in advance. They're holding up scrawled messages: "Please – 2 tickets" "We need 3 tickets" "Tickets please!" Finally, only 15 minutes late, I'm in – along with some 2400 other people!

NOVEMBER 26 EVE TO NOVEMBER 27 DAY  
RALLYING CRIES:  
EDUCATION TO ACTION

It's a veritable "Who's Who" of the citizens' movements – an intellectual powerhouse of alternative economics and sustainable development – and they're in one room. Maude Barlow, Susan George, Vandana Shiva, Martin Khor, Lori Wallach, David Suzuki, Anita Roddick, Tony Clarke, and many more. I was most impressed by the speakers' eagerness to defend their opinions on the streets, protesting along with us.

The messages are consistently one of hope, a rallying call: "This is historic," "The Battle of Seattle," and "We Can Do It If We Stick Together." In fact, we're winning. We've got to proactively battle the WTO in solidarity, they say, not single issue by issue or reaction by reaction. "If we're not fighting each for all and all for each, we're going to be picked off one by one," said Susan George. We must resist attempts of government and business to spark division among us, their divide and conquer approach."

The room is packed. The WTO is a concern for so many social justice and environmental movements. The success of civilian movements to sink the recent Multilateral Agreement on Investment was celebrated, with Martin Khor's assurance that the president of the OECD himself admitted it failed due to widespread public outcry.

*Protesters take cover from tear gas, pepper spray, and rubber bullets during Seattle WTO conference.*



We're loaded with facts, stats, and action plans. Academic conference meets monster protest. Our action ground rules: argue on the WTO's record, no alarmist claims, no violence, and no destructive stunts – basically, don't distract the media from the real issues. We're here to express our opinion and counter some basic myths about economic globalization:

1. That it is natural and irreversible (it is the result of conscious economic policies)
2. That it benefits developing countries (by all indications, the rich are still getting richer and the poor are getting poorer)
3. That "free trade" is really free (it's actually highly regulated, corporate-managed trade)

NOVEMBER 28, 1999

LOOKING FOR ALTERNATIVES

I hopped out of bed for a 9 am panel following up from last night, on constructing a Citizens' Agenda as a better alternative to the WTO agenda. It was a call to action, in the words of John Cavanagh, to "shift energy from opposing and exposing to proposing." Friends and I also attended an afternoon panel devoted to alternatives. Seattle is not just about destroying the WTO, it's also about constructing viable, sustainable alternatives. WTO proponents argue that the only other option to their version of free trade is protectionism: rebuilding high tariff walls. It is time for supporters of "fair trade, not free trade" to be proactive and not reactive, to envision and build alternatives, to entice humanity with better options.

NOVEMBER 29, 1999

SOLIDARITY TRAINING

The Direct Action Network warehouse is a crazy meeting and organization place for a colourful array of activists. Intense training and planning in all aspects of direct action and civil disobedience, as well as legal and medical support teams. And free food.

Please see SEATTLE, Page 14



# The Truth About Slavs and Dogs

*Six months after their bombing campaign, NATO comes under fire*

BY TAL PINCHIEVSKY

Does anyone remember that little Kosovo spat that all the kids were talking about last summer?

After a practice in mass media overload followed by massive NATO air operations, the Kosovo story was no longer what industry jargon would refer to as commercially lucrative. And so we witnessed the events that transpired at Columbine along with JFK Jr.'s untimely demise as the plight in the Balkans was temporarily relegated to the top shelf in the conventional media vault.

Now that popular media has let the issue of the Balkans fall by the wayside, a fervent backlash has emerged verbally indicting the members of NATO for the tactics that they employed in meeting their objectives. These objectives all revolved around Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic, including the withdrawal of his military, police, and paramilitary forces from Kosovo, his agreeing to an international military presence stationed in Kosovo, and his provision to work for the establishment of a political-framework agreement.

Last May, Milosevic and five of his sen-

called a few hours earlier. That Saturday we had a demonstration of thousands."

In 1993, US Secretary of State Madeline Albright instigated the establishment of the special War Crimes Tribunal. The tribunal has been financially dependent on NATO countries and looks to NATO to enforce decisions and arrest those indicted. So imagine the surprise expressed by that loveable group of NATOites when last week chief prosecutor of the tribunal, Carla Del Ponte, announced that she would review a report questioning the conduct of NATO pilots and their commanders during last spring's 78-day bombing campaign against Yugoslavia.

## TARGETING THE WORLD ORDER

The seed was planted in July of 1999 when the International Action Centre, based in New York, initiated their own Independent Commission of Inquiry to investigate US-NATO war crimes against the people of Yugoslavia. The inaugural meeting of this commission took place in front of 700 people in New York and was aided by

Yugoslavia, Slavs, Serbs, and Muslims as genocidal murderers.

The government officials and organizations listed are officially charged with three crimes:

1. Crimes against peace, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other offenses in violation of the principles of the Nuremberg Tribunal, the Hague regulations and Geneva Conventions, and other international and national laws.

2. Grave violations of the Charter of the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty, other international treaties, international law, the Federal Constitution and Domestic Laws of the United States, the basic laws of other nations including the United Kingdom, the Federal Republic of Germany, Turkey, the Netherlands, Hungary, Italy, Spain, and other governments of NATO members and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

3. Grave violations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, the Genocide Convention, and other international covenants, treaties, declarations, and domestic laws.

Steven Torrisi, an analyst formerly of the Pearson Peacekeeping Centre in Nova Scotia and the Institute for Defense Studies, said, "NATO is bigger than Serbia. You have to take that into consideration. They have more assets available. NATO can say they have a moral claim in Europe on the transition to a peaceful integrated society. Their view is that anybody who is not for integration is against them."

## WHAT NATO WON'T TELL YOU

Most of these indictments are emerging while some conventional print media are beginning to expose the truth about the bombing campaign. Dana Priest of the Washington Post was the first journalist to outline this discrepancy. Last September, Priest wrote a series of articles documenting US generals directing NATO bombing to purposely strike civilian economic targets in Serbia to bring pressure on the local government. Other pieces printed in the Toronto Star and New York Times questioned the accuracy of claims by US officials, who stated that first 500,000 Kosovo Albanians had been killed, then 100,000, then 40,000. Despite these claims, forensic teams from 17 nations digging mass graves in Kosovo for six months discovered 2,108 bodies of all nationalities that had died from numerous



fighters- also owns NBC and co-owns MSNBC.

Among the most important of these myths is that NATO bombing is not the cause of the refugee crisis that was mildly documented by Western media. The underlying reality is that there were no waves of refugees until the beginning of the NATO bombing on March 24. Mirvei, an Albanian refugee, asked by the London Times if Serbian troops had driven her away from her home,

replied, "There were no Serbs, we were frightened of the bombs."

## THE REAL VICTIMS

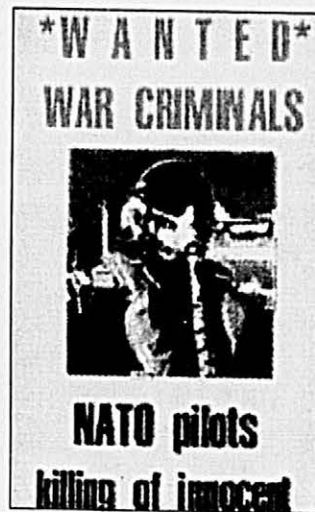
Between May 7 and 8, the Chinese Embassy in Serbia was attacked with three laser-guided missiles shot from a B-2 bomber. According to the Chinese government, there were about 30 people in the building at the time of the bombing, four of whom died and at least 20 of whom were injured. This was an attack of such massive proportions that Western media were almost obligated to report its occurrence. There were, however, numerous other victims of the bombing that were not paid even the slightest lip service.

Around 12:55 am on May 20th, NATO hit Dragisa Misovic hospital in Belgrade. As a result, the neurological ward, the maternity ward, the gynecological ward, and the children's ward for lung disease have been completely destroyed. During the attack, 4 women were in active labour, one of whom was having a Caesarean section done.

On April 23 at around 2 am, the building of the Serbian National Broadcasting Network was destroyed by NATO forces. The building is only a few feet from a children's theatre, St. Marko's Church, and the City Children centre. More than 20 civilian employees of the station were killed in an effort to deny the fundamental right to freedom of speech.

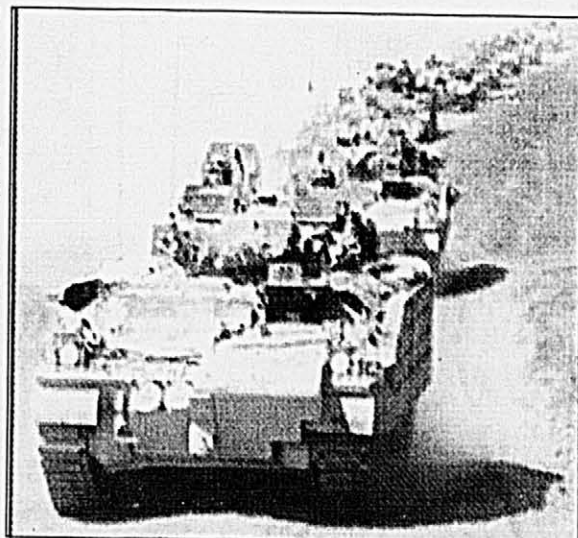
The potential for an unbiased judicial framework to indict high profile war criminals is small, according to Sloane. "There's always a bias, we're doing this to fight the US and to fight NATO, and their war drive," said Sloane. "What we really want to do is build a movement that is an anti-war, anti-imperialist movement."

Torrisi pictures a bleak future for NATO in the Balkans. "We haven't learned anything," he said. "The point that I'm bringing up in my own writings is that we are doing all the wrong things in Kosovo that caused the second World War. We try to prosecute the little fish, who essentially do nothing, because it's the big fish who influence the little fish to produce those atrocities."



Milosevic is the second coming of Adolf Hitler. This inaccuracy is negated by the facts that the conflict surrounding Kosovo is entirely internal and that Yugoslavia is essentially a developing country of 11 million people being attacked by 19 different countries who account for more than one 10th of the world's population and the majority of this planet's military arsenal.

Another myth concerns the US news reports that are supposedly entirely balanced and unbiased regarding Kosovo. The truth is, however, that General Electric, one of the United States' largest military contractors- it supplies engines for NATO jet



ior supporters were indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia for the ethnic cleansing in Kosovo. A recent backlash has emerged lately, though, in the form of a movement calling for the indictment of American president Bill Clinton among other political figures. The figures in question are responsible for pushing NATO initiatives that amounted to widespread war crimes against the people of Yugoslavia and a massive discrepancy between the truth behind the Kosovo debacle and reports from the American government and its numerous subsidiaries stationed in print and broadcast media.

Outlining the activism of the group, Sarah Sloane from the International Action Centre said, "When NATO bombed Bosnia in 1995, we had demonstrations then and we published two books. So when NATO started bombing other areas of Yugoslavia we were well prepared and were able to immediately see through what NATO and the US were using to justify their bombing campaign. The first day of the bombing was March 24th, it was a Wednesday and we had a demonstration that day with hundreds of people just

former US attorney general Ramsey Clark, who charged US and NATO leaders with 19 counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes against peace.

This movement has snowballed into similar hearings held in 10 other US cities as well as Rome, Berlin, Oslo, Paris, and Tokyo. The most impressive of these showings occurred in Athens, Greece, on November 8th, where 10,000 people participated in a People's Tribunal.

Clark took this seed to greater heights in a prepared indictment listing a multitude of defendants that included President Clinton, Secretary of State Albright, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana, and the governments of every NATO country. Clark lists 19 separate charges including planning and executing the dismemberment, segregation, and impoverishment of Yugoslavia, inflicting, inciting, and enhancing violence between Muslims and Slavs, killing and injuring a defenseless population throughout Yugoslavia; attacking objects indispensable to the survival of the population of Yugoslavia; and using controlled international media to create support for US assaults anywhere and to demonize



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## CD Review

MIDNIGHT VULTURES  
BECK  
(UNIVERSAL)

Less than a year after the release of his eerie pop experiment, *Mutations*, Beck has returned to bring us his much-vaunted party album *Midnight Vultures*. He continues to display his astonishing versatility: this time around his work is relentlessly upbeat and splashed with hip-hop, as Beck prowls with "Hollywood freaks from the Hollywood scene."

In *Midnight Vultures*, Beck's bizarre poetry moves away from musing about the devil and mocking vapid suburban culture – themes which were so prevalent on *Mutations* and *Odelay*. Instead, on killer tracks like "Mixed Business" and "Hollywood Freaks," he introduces a coked-up cast of b-boyz and lesbians in frantic search of a good time. Some of the lyrics, though, are downright weird: "Her left eye is lazy/ She looks so Israeli/ Nicotine and gravy." The album is, as well, a brash romp of Hollywood sexcapades, replete with leather and handcuffs.

In a recent interview with Rolling Stone, Beck claimed that "the mission of our generation is to kill the cliché." He is certainly doing his part as, once again, he has served up a strange musical soup



that inverts, distorts or simply destroys some too-familiar icons of an empty society. Some of Beck's more devoted admirers are already labeling him as a new Bob Dylan whose music and talent might finally rouse another generation from its vacuous apathy. Too soon to say, perhaps, but some of the makings are undeniably present.

Despite its originality, *Midnight Vultures* falls short in some regards. After the irresistible funk of the first six tracks,

the second half of the album sounds over-produced. The final tracks are more annoying than original. Finally, although it is billed as a party album, it is hard not to long for more substance in the lyrics; we start to miss the twisted yearning Beck expressed so well on *Mellow Gold*. That said, *Midnight Vultures* still serves as a splendid soundtrack for a night of degenerate fun.

— Jeff Roberts

Check out the Daily's table at Activities Night on Wednesday!  
(Rumour has it that free cookies will be available...)

THE MCGILL DAILY

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Submissions may also be delivered to our mailbox in the Porter's Office of the Arts Building.

## Thanks to all who contributed to the Daily last semester!

Ben Anderson, Kara Anderson, Julia Apostle, Alex Aylett, Emile Amzallag, Eli Batalion, Robyn Beck, Josh Beitel, Margot Berrill, Nikki Bishop, Morgan Bitan, Daniel Borsuk, Alston Bradley, Liz Breiseth, Le'Nise Brothers, Christina Campisi, Sean Carrie, Margarita Clarens, Sarah Cohen, Mike Colwell, Jordana Comisso, Verda Cook, Matt Davison, Peter Dortal, Jacques Du Binsky, Isabelle Fahmy, Jennifer Famery, Sameer Farooq, Jennifer Fernandes, Alirio Ferreira, Matylda Gawor, Colin George, Jonah Gindin, Kent Glowinski, Andrew Goldstein, Ricky C. Gordon, Maria Gosselin, Tyler Hargreaves, Danielle Hoffman, Lea Jacobson, Holly Gauthier-Frankel, Gabby Jakubovits, Alia Kahn, Michael Kalin, Mehreen Khalfan, Julie Lassande, Jodi Latham, Olivia Lau, Jayson Lee, Jeremy Lentz, Jennifer Liao, Joe Marin, Sean McIntyre, Stephen McLeod, Jim Morrison, Emily Morry, Chris Needles, J. Kelly Nestruck, Mandy Ng, Brie O'Keefe, Lara Okhiro, John Orved, Colin Oswin, Gilber O'Young, David Podgorski, Simon Rabinovitch, Zarmeenah Rahim, Samira Rahmani, Jeff Roberts, Jeff Rollins, Yan Schotte, Heidi Smith, Alia Somani, Lucas Stanczyk, Christine Stecura, Lana Stewart, Brett Story, Gloria Tevez, Ana Tirovolas, Amy Torsney, Renée Tratch, Sarah Turner, Aaron Waisglass, Reiko Weisglass, Sarah Wolkowski, Jonathan Woodside, Jennifer Vo, Noor Yazami, Sonia Ziadé

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us again soon!

THE MCGILL DAILY





## Digital Daze

*An experience in fictional space*

BY EMILY ROSENBERG

The virtual age requires artists to explore the way that individuals respond to digital images and to test the boundaries between reality and imagination.

This is exactly what Lynne Marsh does in a video installation called *Venus...I see blue* which opened Saturday at the OBORO gallery on Berri.

The video loop shows the artist, dressed in goggles and an outfit which resembles a kimono, leaping and kicking across a bright blue mountainscape composed of digital images of Venus borrowed from NASA.

Aesthetically, this installation presents a stark contrast between the warm colors of the character and the bleak cold colours of the terrain. The image also raises timely questions. As the promotional blurb for the exhibit proposes that it "explores the potential in inventing a fictional space and the questions raised by this," Marsh clarified the statement, explaining some of the questions raised. At what point does an invented character become real? What is real to the viewer? Does placing a fictional character in a new context allow it greater freedoms?

Marsh found her inspiration in female characters in video games as well as martial arts movies and animation.

She is interested in the idea of "the myths and archetypes of female representation," and explains that often we are confronted with the issue of appropriation. In her work she allows "women, the viewers, or [her]self to take on elements of these archetypes or stereotypes and then personalize and internalize them."

This process forces the participants to create a new identity for themselves. The artist internalized her own character in the process of making *Venus...I see blue*. In order to become the character which she plays in the video she took karate lessons and learned the actions that her composite character required. For a previous work she learned to lasso. She writes that by performing in her work she "becomes acquainted with the persona" that she has imagined.

Not all of the character's screen qualities actually belong to Lynne Marsh. Much of her power on screen comes from intentional manipulation of image and sound to create a "fictional space" where not only is the character free of the laws which govern the everyday world, but where "the audience is willing to engage more readily than they would through other media." The character kicks the empty gallery, forcing an interaction between the image on screen and the viewer.

Marsh recognizes that when we

approach video games and other digital or animated images we are willing to make the jump to the fantasy world which the artist or web designer, as the case may be, has created. In an astute comparison, she explains that when the special effects in a Star Wars movie are not realistic, the audience complains, because they expect realism, while "South Park works."

Marsh explained that this piece first featured in England, where it was projected from behind a screen which formed the end of a box-like corridor. Such a space highlighted the aggressiveness of the image, whereas the setup at the OBORO gallery "allows people to feel more secure" by allowing them a greater psychological distance from the artwork. Despite this distance, the character's strength is evident.

The success of *Venus...I see blue* lies primarily in the interesting questions which the artist has tackled by creating the piece. But the video alone does give a sense of new, unexplored space and is a welcome representation of a powerful female character.

*Venus...I see blue* is on display until February 13 at OBORO Gallery (4001 Berri, #301). The gallery is open Wednesday to Sunday from noon to 5pm.

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Bastard, bastard, bonehead, bastard: (from left to right) PMs Pearson, Chretien, Turner, and Trudeau

## The Bookshelf

# Despite Perpetual Bungling, Canada Manages to Muddle Through

**BASTARDS & BONEHEADS: CANADA'S GLORIOUS LEADERS PAST AND PRESENT**  
BY WILL FERGUSON  
DOUGLAS & MCINTYRE, 326 PAGES, \$22.95, 1999

REVIEWED BY BEN ERRETT

The topic of Canadian history can glaze eyes upon mere mention. Some argue that this is because it is inherently boring: a narcoleptic series of muddlers and cultural tensions kept simmering by awkward compromise. And yet we've had our fair share of terrorists, insurrections and scandal. Blame it on the curriculum, the deathly dull tenth grade history and laughable Heritage Minutes. Will Ferguson aims to change all that with *Bastards & Boneheads*. More than a good/bad compendium of PMs, Ferguson examines a series of conflicts in Canadian history, from Champlain to Meech Lake. What links it all is the B&B system of historical analysis. Ferguson claims to have no heroes. Those who are driven to succeed, whether their plans be noble or narrow minded, are bastards. Pierre Eliot Trudeau is your archetypal Grade A bastard, the Ego that walked as a man. The boneheads are the mindlessly inept, the pretty boys and girls who, despite their intentions, still manage to screw things up. Here the classic example is Joe Clark, the chinless wonder who lasted less than 300 days in office in his previous incarnation.

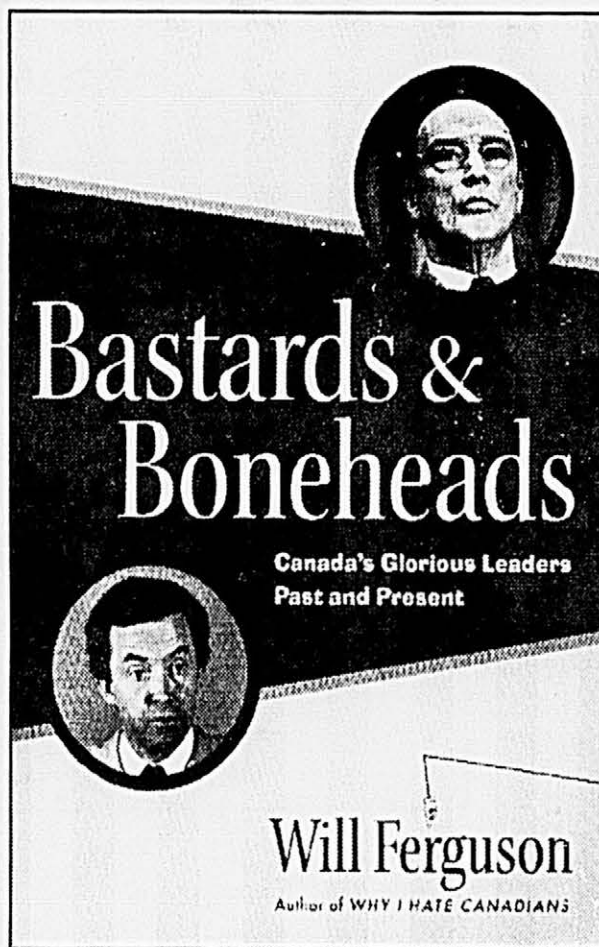
Ferguson will have none of the Conrad Black efforts to rehabilitate Brian Mulroney's image. "Brian Mulroney rode into town promising national unity and fiscal responsibility," Ferguson writes, "and he left nine

years later with Canada in the worst debt it had ever seen and on the brink of a national breakup." For this, Mulroney is a bastard and a bonehead, though the latter ultimately wins out. There's no political bias here, unless you count the bias against politicians. There are 8 bastards and 12 boneheads in total, with Tories leading in boneheads at 10 (all but Borden and Macdonald) and the Liberals providing an excess of bastards. Ferguson doesn't seem to have a preference, as the boneheads let the country do what it wants while the bastards get right in and muck it up. Being incompetent and ruthless may be better than being mere-

napping of James Cross, and the Oka crisis. In all of these events, key players are labeled as either bastards or boneheads. The system is inherently cynical, and in a way classically Canadian. We don't have heroes, and the best that can be said for anyone who changes history for the better is that she or he was a well-intentioned bastard. Contrast this to U.S. history, in which just about everyone save Benedict Arnold is heroic in his or her own right.

Ferguson includes an impressive bibliography of both primary and established sources, as well as research done "often late into the night." Aside from his tone and methodology, Ferguson is most clever in his writing on Quebec. Using historian Francois-Xavier Garneau's quote that French Canadian history is based on "defeats as glorious as victories," Ferguson contends that the culture of Quebec reveres its losers even more than its winners. It is for this reason that Lucien Bouchard can whip up a storm of emotional rhetoric around issues that English Canadians may find mundane. In Ferguson's view, Jacques Parizeau's referendum night condemnation of "money and the ethnic vote" is proof of the separatist mastery of this phenomenon. Despite this, Parizeau is still a Tete-de-Os.

Whether Ferguson's telling of history falls into the same ethnocentric traps as his predecessors is for historians to decide. He manages to divide history neatly into compartments and offers enough opinion to keep the book lively. In turning Canadian history to enjoyable light reading, Ferguson has certainly succeeded in his aim.



ly incompetent, but neither title is to be worn with honour.

The rest of the book is a best-of compilation of Canadian history, with all the highlights of a Grade Ten history class. This includes Louis Riel, Confederation, Nellie McGung, the kid-

## Feasts of Fury

# Nantha's Nothing But Disappointments

*Overpriced restaurant boasts glaring gastronomical weaknesses*

BY JAMES YAP

Walking up the stairs to the dining room of Nantha's Kitchen, it is impossible to ignore the rave reviews this restaurant has received from various journals, including The New York Times, The Globe and Mail, The Gazette, and The Mirror.

Giving these newspaper clippings a brief look, one can glean a little information about the origin of this Malaysian/Indonesian/Indochinese restaurant. Apparently, Nantha founded the resto himself because he wanted to share with the world the food his mother would cook for him when he was a little boy growing up in Malaysia. Cute. Too bad he forgot to ask her for the recipes.

Everyone has seen those spots on television where a character orders something expensive from a fancy restaurant and receives a tiny scrap delicately positioned on a much larger plate. When the waiter brought my order of otak otak (a Malay dish which consisting of a ground fish paste seasoned with various chilis and spices, and prepared in a banana leaf) my experience much reminded me of these commercials. My first words upon seeing the plate was, "So, uh... where is it?" Upon realizing that my \$2.50 fish was hiding under a sprig of parsley, I promptly inhaled the fish, sucked the almost-dessicated decorative lime dry, and drank the bowl of chili that came with it, my stomach remaining grossly unsatisfied (it speaks volumes about the authenticity of an Asian restaurant if one can drink the chili it serves). Additionally, although the little exposure my taste buds received to the food were sufficient to confirm that it was, indeed, some kind of fish, the paste was anything but ground.

Later, in conversation with my friend, I let slip that I worked for a newspaper and intended to write a review of the establishment; unbeknownst to me, the waiter was standing right behind me. At this point, food and service improved noticeably.

But nothing made up for the \$2.50 can of 7-Up I ordered, which, I should add tasted suspiciously like Sprite (and The New York Times had called this restaurant cheap!)

I didn't have many other complaints with Nantha's menu, other than that the peanut sauce that came with my friend's satay was more bland than Gerber food. Once more, my main dish, which I ordered "very hot," was not spicy at all. The shrimps in it felt a little bit undercooked, and smelled a little too much like algae for my taste.

In light of the serious shortcomings of my food, it was deeply perturbing to see the many very favourable reviews that Nantha's had received and proudly displayed by its entrance - Nantha must have made a lot of friends during his days as a journalist.

The meal I had at Nantha's rocketed to the top of the list of the worst meals I have had since coming to Montreal (displacing a box of Kraft Dinner I accidentally ate in December of 1998, mostly because Nantha's was many times more expensive). It would require no small leap of imagination on my part to envision this restaurant ever serving up more than mediocre fare. Most of the people I know who have been to Nantha's have found this a fair assessment. Definitely an eatery to avoid.

*Nantha's Kitchen is located at 9 Dufferin East  
Feasts of Fury appears on Mondays.*

**Bernard Shapiro has  
a third nipple!?!?**

*Probably not, but if he did, you'd hear about  
it first in Slibel & Lander. Thursdays in*

THE MCGILL DAILY



# Phlocking to the Phlorida Everglades

*Tens of thousands gather on New Year's Eve to celebrate peace, love, and meatsticks*

BY GABE FLORES  
AND TAL PINCHEVSKY

The mother of all millennium events took place in the middle of the Florida Everglades.

Set on a Seminole Indian Reservation, Phish played an exhausting six-and-a-half-hour concert to an enthusiastic crowd of an estimated 75,000. While other millennium events, including a soirée with Sting in New York City (try telling your grandchildren about that one) were cancelled due to inflated ticket sales and little attempt at generating excitement, Phish managed to sell out its show several weeks before the event.

The Phish phenomenon has been the subject of discussion in the music industry because of the band's uncanny ability to draw sellout crowds year round, regardless of the location. The millennium event, called *Phish at Big Cypress*, attracted fans that drove from as far as Alaska, and others that flew in from Europe.

Initially marred by 14-hour traffic jams along interstate 75 and one alcohol-related death, the rest of the event was what the organizers of last summer's Woodstock were dreaming of. There was no moshing and no one would dare throw turf at any of the four musicians that have achieved god-like status. Once more, fans picked up after themselves on the concert ground and recycled more than the average suburban neighbourhood.

Great North East productions had been planning the event for the past three years, mainly scouting out locations along the eastern seaboard and southern California. The logistics of bringing in enough food to quell those munchies, coupled with Y2K contingency plans made this a major undertaking. But, in typical Phish fashion, no detail was spared. Ferris wheels were brought in, hot air balloon rides (at a pricey \$5), and a spaghetti-western-style town were built just for the concert. A huge sundial was constructed at the town square and a skit featuring *Men In Black* agents ran around the site repeating a scenario which, to the inebriated mind, would appear eerily realistic.

A time capsule, filled with momentos from the event by Phish fans, including an empty bottle of Jack

Daniels, was built and buried on the site, with instructions for it to be opened in the year 4020.

While the comparison to the Grateful Dead is painfully obvious, the stark contrast between large Phish concerts and other festivals that take place both in the States and Europe is also quite poignant. Events such as last year's disastrous Woodstock, with its lineup and reports of sexual assaults in the crowd, highlight the problems of mixing fans of several kinds of music, especially with angst ridden tunes from Limp Bizkit and Korn. Festivals throughout Europe, including Glastonbury (where Phish once played) and Japanese festivals, renowned for their down-to-the-minute organization, go off seamlessly year after year. So whether the problem is mixing crowds with different musical allegiances or a uniquely cultural problem remains to be seen.

Part of the answer may lie in the cult-like status Phish has enjoyed in the 15 years following their inception in Vermont. New fans, called newbies, are often introduced to the band by a friend, either by listening to a bootleg cassette, or attending one of the nearly 100 shows the band performs during the year. To the untrained ear, the majority of Phish's music is a hybrid of country, bluegrass, classic rock, and funk.

The four musicians first came together at the University of Vermont in 1983 when guitarist Trey Anastasio, drummer Jon Fishman, and bass player Mike Gordon, all freshmen at UVM, formed the band with sophomore guitarist Jeff Holdsworth. Within the next three years, Holdsworth had quit the band and Page McConnell, a student at nearby Goddard College, enhanced the sound of the band with his keyboard.

Their creativity was well demonstrated in the lengths to which they went to ring in the new year. At about 11:30 pm on December 31, a giant clock began ticking on stage, powered by Father Time pedalling on a stationary bicycle. With about 5 minutes left to go before midnight, Father Time simply collapsed from exhaustion.

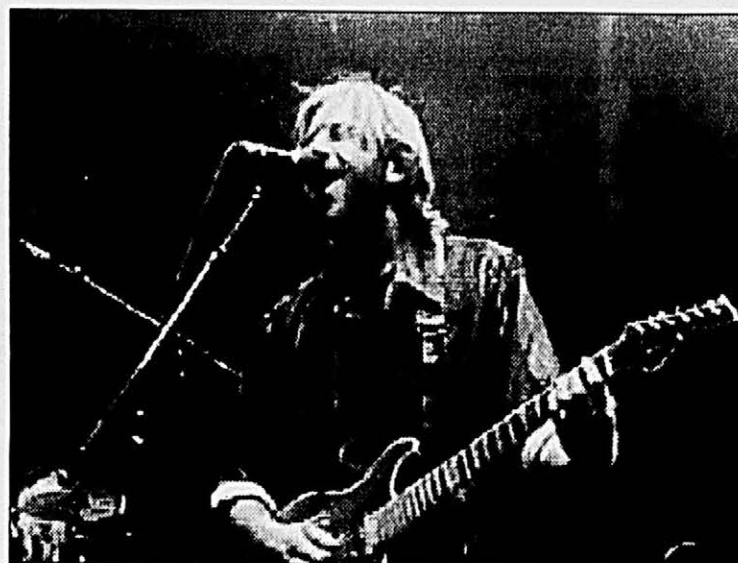
It was around this time that a peculiar looking airboat appeared over the crowd. Once the massive crowd had noticed the airboat, it opened up revealing the four band members riding through the audience on a giant hot dog, the same giant hot dog on which the band flew around Boston Garden for their New Year's celebration in 1995. As the band made their way toward the stage throwing leis and pieces of raw hot dog into the crowd, four Meatstick Dancers proceeded to do the fabled Meatstick Dance on stage.

Once the band made it onto the stage, they aided Father Time by feeding him large quantities of tasty sausage. Upon being nurtured back to health, father time was able to usher in a new century as Phish played the New Year's mainstay, *Auld Lange Syne*. Odd? Definitely! Entertaining? Absolutely!

The apogee of this massive celebration was the marathon set that followed Father Time's appearance. Beginning with phan favourite, *Down With Disease*, the band played and played until the sun had risen and everyone's watches read 7:30 am. The marathon performance (over six and a half hours of straight music) transpired with relatively, if not surprisingly, little chaos.

During their special 2000 broadcast celebrating the new year, ABC showed 5 minutes of the marathon set to show the viewing public the world's largest concert on that particular night. The 5 minutes were entertaining, if not informative, but they could not embody the magnitude of the event. Eighty thousand people came together in among the most serene of natural environments in order to meet each other, enjoy the solitude of a makeshift community, and see one of the world's most charismatic bands.

The 2000 celebration was simply an added incentive to have just a little bit more fun.





# McGill Student Takes on WTO

## SEATTLE

Continued from Page 8

One of my most empowering experiences was a skills-building session with a twist – a Legal/Jail Solidarity workshop run by the DAN legal team – attracting 300 people, probably double their expectation. Anticipating mass arrests tomorrow (something about blockading trade centre entrances to shut down the ministerial meeting...), we were led through participatory training to use solidarity in numbers effectively. After four hours, we knew crowd tactics, demands and rights, what to expect and how to react – what to do and bring and what NOT to do and bring. What numbers to call. What to say and when and the most important sentence, “I choose to remain silent and would like to see my lawyer” – for solidarity with foreigners, we were all given stickers to point to with that sentence on it. Puppy-piling, protecting singled out or vulnerable protesters, going limp, rocking the bus, making noise, using

crowd spokespeople and facilitators properly, getting out of handcuffs, and how to protect yourself from baton-happy police. All in all, the ultimate lesson on safety in numbers and the essence of solidarity.

### NOVEMBER 30, 1999 8:30 PM DAY OF ACTION

Tear gas flows into the window as I type this. It stings my eyes, tongue and throat. I thought I'd escaped a few hours ago to my friend's house – little suspecting the police would drive protesters right up here! The mayor imposed an emergency state, 7 pm curfew and police had to clear the downtown streets. We can hear explosions (likely tear gas and pepper spray) from the window and helicopters above. It's the International Day of Action against the WTO, with actions taken in cities around the world.

Woke up at 6:45 am. Riot police already out. The crowds through the day are huge – upwards of 50,000 people.

The morning was insane. Direct action groups surrounding the meeting centres,

forming blockades to keep the ministers out. This action was part of the underlying message: shut down or turn around the WTO's undemocratic decisions; we were fairly successful too.

The opening ceremonies were cancelled and 10 a.m. meetings finally started at 3 p.m! Current arrest tally: 25. A tiny minority, however, grabbed attention by smashing windows, spray-painting and vandalising stores. But unlike what you'll hear in most news coverage, the vast majority of the crowd insisted on a non-violent protest.

### DECEMBER 1, 1999 6:30 PM CRACKDOWN

Since last night, we've watched TV news about Seattle. Startling discrepancies occur between what is depicted to the public and what we saw firsthand. Underlying issues behind the mass peaceful protest were often ignored or misrepresented in favour of attention-grabbing shots of one of the few window-smashers. I didn't attend a violent riot – I participated in an inspir-

ing, non-violent action, where protesters were pleading with others to remain calm despite police provocation. Then the Washington media portrays the police as too lenient yesterday, justifying their appalling crackdown today.

Today was less fun. The no-protest zone has been hugely expanded and perhaps 500 arrests have taken place. My friend Aaron was arrested – photos of him squashed under two policeman are all over the media now. Police are confiscating gas masks worn by protesters as protection against what some of the medical volunteers are citing as new chemical weapons (possibly unauthorized non-lethal nerve gas). And I have several firsthand accounts of police brutality: beating unarmed protest lines, pepper-spraying individuals purposefully in the eyes, etc.

### DECEMBER 5, 1999 7:00 PM VICTORY!

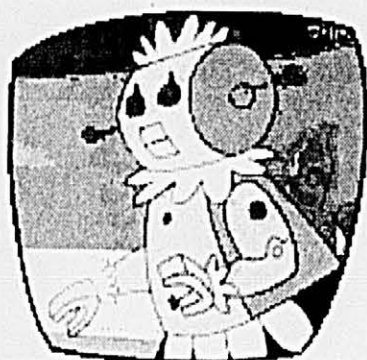
I've just heard the good news – the WTO talks have failed! They weren't able to agree on a Millennium Round agenda. In

the mainstream press, this is credited largely to disagreements between countries within the WTO. However, independent media suggest that the protests were a significant factor in the official meeting outcome. Weissman and Mohkiber give a list of possible negotiating disputes saying, “On each of these issues, the street protests helped heighten contradictions and conflicts...As a delegate from Zimbabwe explained, the street demonstrations emboldened the Third World negotiators to object to the exclusionary processes inside the WTO.”

But while we're pleased with this result, we refuse to rest on laurels. The stories about the debate, jailed protesters, civil suits, and the resignation of Seattle's chief of police show no signs of abating. So stay tuned.

Pauline Huang is a U1 Honours Cognitive Science student currently taking a year off school to co-ordinate International Youth Week 2000. She can be contacted by email at pauline@youthweek.org.

## ...endnotes



### ON THE APPALLING LACK OF ROBOT MAIDS

In the recent 80th anniversary issue of the McGill News, a Daily editor at the paper's 50th anniversary reunion in 1961 forecasted that, by 2011, McGill's reputation would be known on many planets and the 1950s will look as archaic as the middle ages. That gives us a little over a decade to get that interplanetary travel thing up and running and either find some extraterrestrial life or populate some planets ourselves.

We're just 356 days away from 2001, but are we ready to let HAL navigate a spaceship? And where are all the Jetsons

robot maids that are supposed to make everyone's lives better?

Jay Tietel argues in the latest Saturday Night that the first half of this century was an era of phenomenal technological growth and exploration, while the last 50 years have been lackluster in comparison. (He calls the internet, email and personal computers re-inventions of the wheel.)

Even if his claim is farfetched, there are no hovercars, and we still have to sit through class rather than plug our brains into a supercomputer to download knowledge. So here are a few more modest predictions for 2050: computers won't crash as often, and maybe we'll have electric cars. Not exactly the stuff of science fiction, but probably less likely to disappoint.

-Ben Errell

### DAMNED IF YOU DO

Throughout the last year, the National Post regularly featured front page stories questioning the spending of public money on millennium celebrations. One week it was those crazy lesbians wasting our

money, and the next it was the evil separatists.

Lo and behold, last Wednesday, columnist Roy MacGregor attacked the government for Ottawa's low-key New Year's Eve celebrations on Parliament Hill. Apparently, they weren't quite as awe-inspiring as those in Paris or New York. Putting aside the fact that Ottawa is neither Paris nor New York, what did they expect? They whine and gripe and embarrass the government and then turn around and whine some more when the government listens to them.

The Post is swimming in red ink; they must realize that you have to spend money for things to look good. But they'd rather have tax cuts. So they ought to either keep whining for their tax cuts and applaud the government when it saves cash or push for fancy fireworks and wait a few more years for tax cuts. But they can't have it both ways. -BE

...endnotes is a weekly forum for views on the news brought to you by The Daily's staff.

Police in riot gear disperse protesters at December's WTO conference in Seattle.



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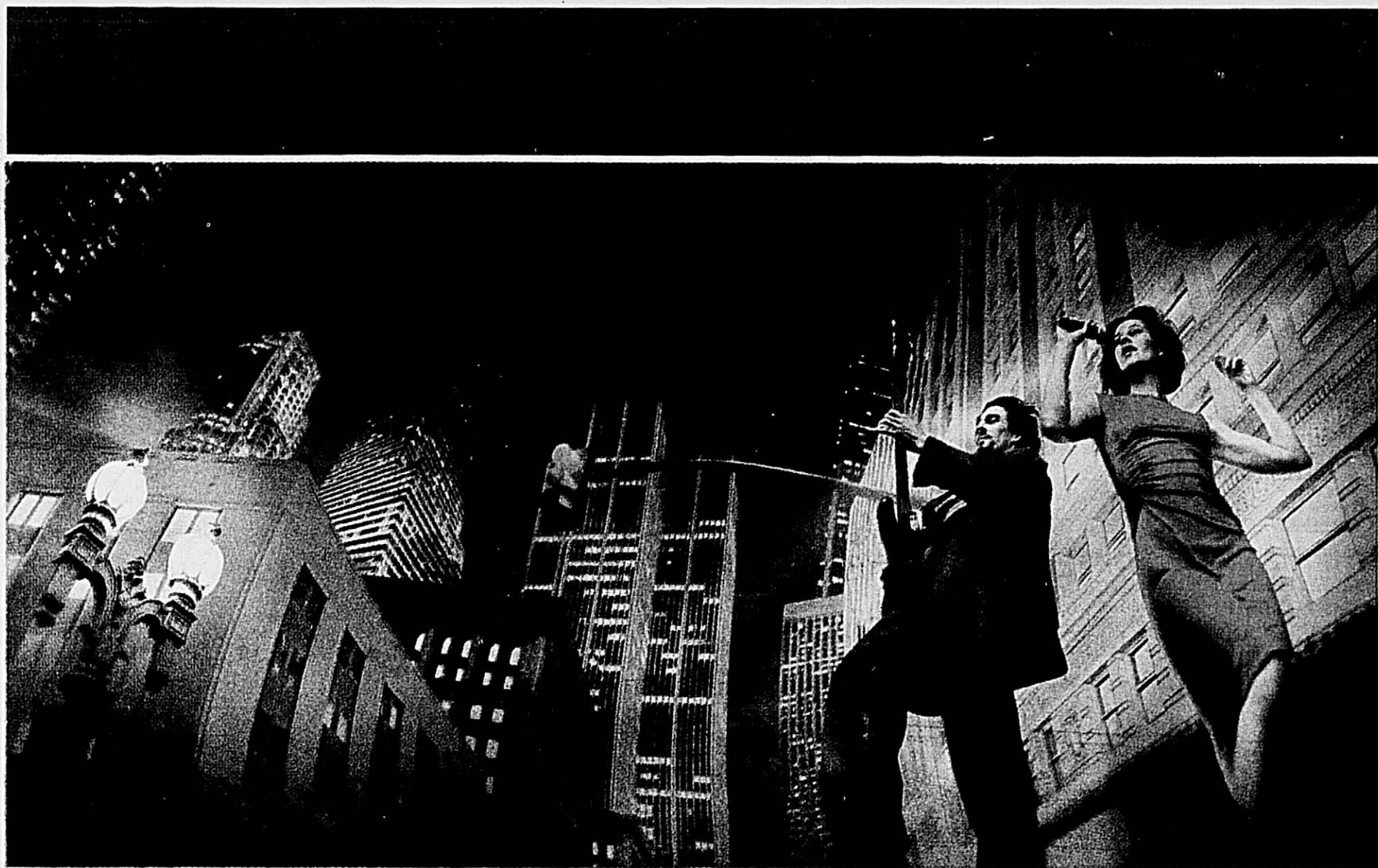
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